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January 12, 2001

VIA FACSIMILE AND BY MAIL
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FAA-03-14246-8

Mr. Kevin Willis
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Airport Safety and Standards
800 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

03 JAN 17 AM 11:46
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

Re: New Orleans Lakefront Airport
Preliminary Application -
Airport Privatization Pilot Program

Dear Mr. Willis:

I am writing to update you on the status of my client, Orleans Levee District's, efforts to secure an advisory opinion letter from the State of Louisiana on the authority *vel non* of my client to lease the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. If you will recall, FAA counsel in Washington spoke with me in September and requested an opinion letter of this nature from the State of Louisiana.

In early October I met with counsel for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Aviation Division (LADOTD) and an assistant Louisiana Attorney General to discuss the issue and FAA request for the advisory opinion. After this meeting there was apparently some question over which agency of the State would issue the opinion.

In late October, I received a letter from counsel for the LADOTD, who


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informed me that such an advisory opinion would have to come from the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana. During November and December, I spoke with the Assistant Attorney General who was assigned this opinion on several occasions and also wrote to him to expedite the issuance of the opinion; however, until earlier this week, I could not secure a firm commitment on exactly when the opinion would be issued.

Earlier this week I contacted the Orleans Levee District's local counsel in Baton Rouge, who handles legislative matters for the District, and he was able to secure a commitment that the advisory opinion would be issued by the Louisiana Attorney General's Office without any further delay. I expect to receive a copy of the opinion, which will be addressed to the President of the Orleans Levee Board, sometime next week. As soon as I receive a copy, I will fax it to you, and would appreciate hearing from you on which other FAA representatives and/or legal counsel should be provided with a copy of the advisory opinion.

In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience if you wish to discuss any aspect of the Orleans Levee District's Preliminary Application for participation in the FAA Airport Privatization Pilot Program.

Sincerely,



GERARD G. METZGER

GGM/scd

cc: David L. Bennett, Director, Office of Airport Safety and Standards
Steve Steckler, President, IMG, Inc.
J. E. Murdock, III, Esq., Shaw Pittman
Hon. James P. Huey, President, OLD
Hon. Gen. James E. Livingston, Commissioner, OLD
Hon. Robert E. Smith-Lupo, Commissioner, OLD
Hon. Marlin N. Gusman, Commissioner, OLD

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Hon. Patricia W. Harris, Commissioner, OLD
Max L. Hearn, Executive Director, OLD
Randolph Taylor, Aviation Director, OLD
Gary G. Benoit, Esq., Senior Legal Counsel, OLD